CLAIM AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application or previous response to office action:

1. **(Currently Amended)** An overvoltage protection comprising:

a spark gap which has mutually opposite electrodes, wherein the opposite electrodes define a space,

a light source for production of an ignition light as a function of initiation signals from a control unit, wherein the ignition light is designed for direct ignition of the spark gap, and

an optical waveguide for carrying the ignition light to the spark gap, wherein the optical waveguide is arranged such that the ignition light which emerges from the optical waveguide enters the area, which is bounded by the electrodes.

2. (Previously Presented) An overvoltage protection according to claim 1, wherein the electrodes are arranged on a platform which is designed to be electrically isolated, at a high-voltage potential, and provided for components to be mounted on, wherein the components can be connected to a high-voltage three-phase electrical power supply system, and wherein the light source is grounded.

3. (Previously Presented) An overvoltage protection according to claim 1, wherein the light source has a pump laser which is designed for optical pumping of a fiber laser, with an active medium of the fiber laser being formed in one section of the optical waveguide.

4. (Previously Presented) An overvoltage protection according to claim 1, comprising optics for focusing of the ignition light.

5. (Previously Presented) An overvoltage protection according to claim 1, wherein the ignition light is guided on a surface of the electrode facing the opposite electrode.

6. (Previously Presented) An overvoltage protection according to claim 1, wherein the free end of the optical waveguide remote from the light source is arranged in one electrode.

7. (Previously Presented) An overvoltage protection according to claim 1, wherein the spark gap is part of an ignition circuit for ignition of a main spark gap.

8. (**Currently Amended**) An overvoltage protection comprising:

a spark gap which has mutually opposite electrodes,

an ignition light source receiving initiation signals from a control unit, wherein the ignition light is designed for direct ignition of the spark gap, and

an optical waveguide for carrying the ignition light to the spark gap, wherein the optical waveguide is arranged such that the ignition light which emerges from the optical waveguide enters the area, which is bounded by the electrodes.

9. (Previously Presented) An overvoltage protection according to claim 8, wherein the electrodes are arranged on a platform which is designed to be electrically isolated, at a high-voltage potential, and provided for components to be mounted on, wherein the components can be connected to a high-voltage three-phase electrical power supply system, and wherein the light source is grounded.

10. (Previously Presented) An overvoltage protection according to claim 8, wherein the light source has a pump laser which is designed for optical pumping of a fiber laser, with an active medium of the fiber laser being formed in one section of the optical waveguide.

11. (Previously Presented) An overvoltage protection according to claim 8, comprising optics for focusing of the ignition light.

12. (Previously Presented) An overvoltage protection according to claim 8, wherein the ignition light is guided on a surface of the electrode facing the opposite electrode.

13. (Previously Presented) An overvoltage protection according to claim 8, wherein the free end of the optical waveguide remote from the light source is arranged in one electrode.

14. (Previously Presented) An overvoltage protection according to claim 8, wherein the spark gap is part of an ignition circuit for ignition of a main spark gap.

15. (**Currently Amended**) An overvoltage protection comprising:

a spark gap which has mutually opposite electrodes,

a light source for production of an ignition light as a function of initiation signals from a control unit, wherein the ignition light is designed for direct ignition of the spark gap, and

an optical waveguide for carrying the ignition light to the spark gap, wherein the optical waveguide is arranged such that the ignition light which emerges from the optical waveguide enters the area, which is bounded by the electrodes,

wherein the electrodes are arranged on a platform which is designed to be electrically isolated, at a high-voltage potential, and provided for components to be mounted on, wherein the components can be connected to a high-voltage three-phase electrical power supply system, and wherein the light source is grounded.

16. (Previously Presented) An overvoltage protection according to claim 15, wherein the light source has a pump laser which is designed for optical pumping of a fiber laser, with an active medium of the fiber laser being formed in one section of the optical waveguide.

17. (Previously Presented) An overvoltage protection according to claim 15, comprising optics for focusing of the ignition light.

18. (Previously Presented) An overvoltage protection according to claim 15, wherein the ignition light is guided on a surface of the electrode facing the opposite electrode.

19. (Previously Presented) An overvoltage protection according to claim 15, wherein the free end of the optical waveguide remote from the light source is arranged in one electrode.

20. (Previously Presented) An overvoltage protection according to claim 15, wherein the spark gap is part of an ignition circuit for ignition of a main spark gap.